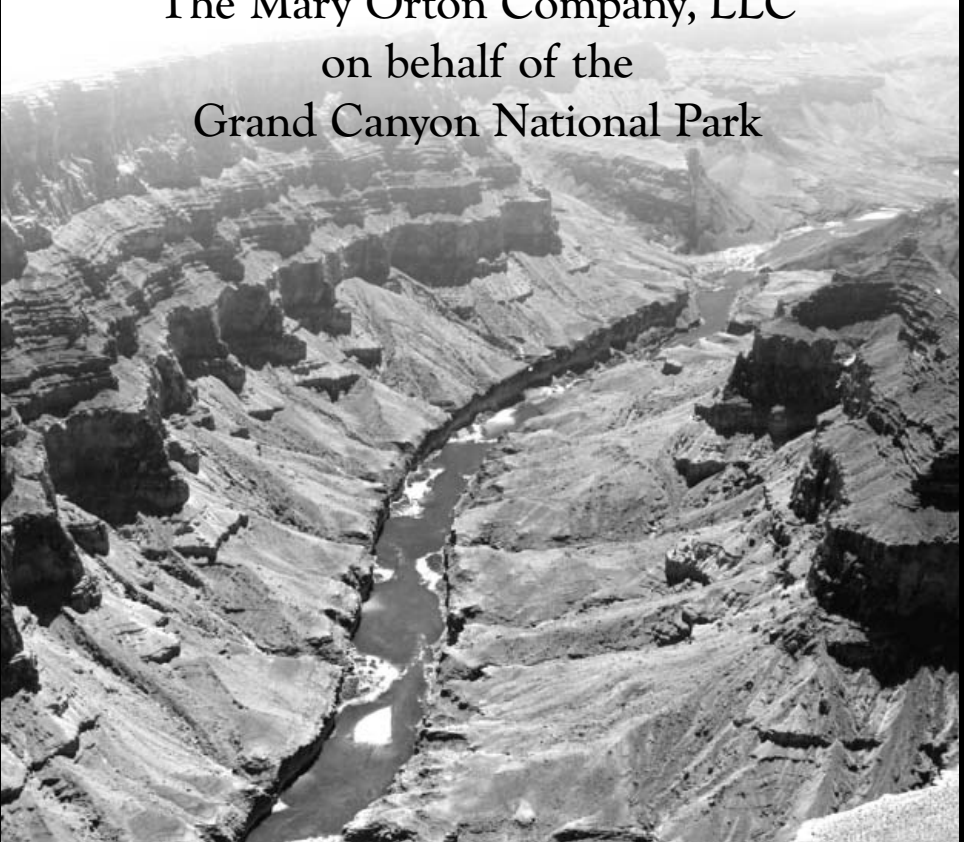


COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN EXPERT PANELS

January 29 & 31, 2003

Presented by:

The Mary Orton Company, LLC
on behalf of the
Grand Canyon National Park



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

From Mary Orton



am a mediator and a neutral, and in this capacity I have consulted with stakeholders and the Park about how to structure a public participation plan for the revision of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP).

I wanted the participation plan to produce useful information for the Park as they develop their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and update the CRMP, while giving stakeholders an opportunity for substantive involvement during the process. The plan had to be within the Park's budgetary constraints, meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and remain meaningful to the stakeholders. After consulting with these parties, I hope and believe this plan meets the criteria.

As you may know, NEPA is a federal law that requires federal agencies to prepare environmental impact statements and obtain public input. Although NEPA does not require public participation during this period, the Park hopes to enrich its understanding of the stakeholders' values and preferences while providing the stakeholders with opportunities for information and involvement. My services were retained to help them advance these goals in several ways.

Over the next three days we will hold two expert panels to discuss some of the important and controversial subjects included in the CRMP. The purpose of these panels is to provide the Park with input from academics, researchers, practitioners, and the like.

Enclosed in this booklet you will find outlines of the days' proceedings and brief biographical information about each of our expert panelists.

For more information about the CRMP and public participation opportunities, please visit the Grand Canyon's CRMP Web site at www.nps.gov/grca/crmp.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2003

COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expert Panel: Carrying Capacity, Group Size, and Seasonality

Agenda

2:00 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Remarks

**2:45 p.m. – Summary of the Existing
Use Limitation System**

3:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion

Questions for Discussion:

▲ Identify the possible range of specific indicators that should be considered in the EIS. Which are the most important or useful? (Indicators are resource conditions that can be quantitatively assessed to determine whether experiential quality or resource health is being protected.)

▲ Identify the possible range of standards for those indicators. (Standards are the quantitative level that defines how much impact or change is acceptable for a particular condition.)

▲ Identify possible management actions (particularly those related to use level, group size, and seasonality) which would produce different impact levels and recreational opportunities.

continued next page

▲ Identify specific actions or sets of actions that might allow higher use limits or require lower use limits, and identify general categories of consequences from implementing those actions.

NOTE: During this discussion, panelists will also consider how modification to the current mix of motorized and non-motorized trips would affect these carrying capacity issues.

5:00 p.m. – Dinner Break

6:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion, Continued

7:00 p.m. – Audience Questions

Please submit your questions at any time on the forms provided.

8:00 p.m. – Summary

▲ What is the range of group sizes that should be considered in the EIS?

▲ What is the range of use limits and other associated management actions that the planners should consider?

▲ How should the seasons be organized? Should they have different use levels and offer different kinds of trips?

8:55 p.m. – Closing

Expert Panelists

Steven W. Carothers ▲ Christian E. Downum ▲ Pam Foti
Jim Hammett ▲ Lilian Jonas ▲ Matt Kaplinski ▲ Catherine A. Roberts
Bo Shelby ▲ Larry Stevens ▲ Bill Stewart ▲ Doug Whittaker

Note: Times are approximate, and this agenda is subject to change.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2003

COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expert Panel: Allocation of Recreational Use Among User Groups

Agenda

8:00 a.m. – Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:35 a.m. – Summary of Programs

9:05 a.m. – Panel Discussion

Discussion Topics

▲ Do the options for changing the allocation system (see p. 7) make sense? Are there other options that should be considered for analysis?

▲ Can demand in the two current sectors (commercial and non-commercial) be quantified and compared? What information would be useful in such a demand analysis? If a split system is maintained and adjusted, what is the range of splits that should be analyzed? What is the rationale?

▲ Are there other sectors that should be considered for an allocation? If yes, can demand be quantified in those sectors? What types of information would be useful in such a demand analysis?

▲ What are the ways of assessing whether an allocation system can be judged successful?

continued next page

▲ What goals should an allocation system address? How should those goals be defined?

▲ If the split system is maintained, what are the possible ways to improve the private permit distribution system?

11:30 a.m. – Lunch Break

12:30 p.m. – Panel Discussion, *Continued*

2:00 p.m. – Audience Questions

Please submit your questions at any time on the forms provided.

3:00 p.m. – Summary

▲ What permit systems should be analyzed in the EIS?

▲ What commercial/non-commercial percentage allocation should be analyzed in the EIS?

▲ What other sectors, if any, should be considered for an allocation in the EIS?

▲ What percentage allocation for any new sector should be analyzed?

3:55 p.m. – Closing

Expert Panelists

Nik Carlson ▲ Denny Huffman ▲ Earl Perry ▲ Bo Shelby
Alan Watson ▲ Doug Whittaker ▲ John Yost

Note: Times are approximate, and this agenda is subject to change.

COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expert Panel: Allocation of Recreational Use Among User Groups

Options for Changing the Allocation System

Following are options for changing the current system of allocating recreational use among user groups on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. (The no-action alternative will be analyzed in the EIS.)

1. Adjust the allocation split and maintain the current two user groups...

- a. While maintaining the current use level.
- b. While increasing the current use level.
- c. While decreasing the current use level.

2. Adjust the allocation split and add to or redefine the user groups...

- a. While maintaining the current use level.
- b. While increasing the current use level.
- c. While decreasing the current use level.

3. Change the allocation paradigm to a new system that accurately assesses and responds to demand. There are several possibilities here, each of which have known and unknown consequences for different groups and trip logistics.

4. Other options?

EXPERT PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

✿ Nik Carlson

*Senior Project Manager, Land Management Group
Environmental Sciences Associates, San Francisco, CA*

Mr. Carlson is a resource economist and planner with more than ten years of professional experience providing recreational and concession consulting services throughout the United States for the National Park Service and numerous other federal and state agencies. He was the task leader and principal analyst for the socioeconomic analysis for the Yosemite Valley Plan EIR and Project Manager for the 1998 Grand Canyon Concession and Transportation System Feasibility Study.

✿ Steven W. Carothers, Ph.D.

*Founder/Senior Scientist
SWCA Environmental Consultants, Flagstaff, AZ*

Dr. Carothers is an ecologist with over 30 years of experience in research, resource management, environmental planning, and Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. Based in Flagstaff, Arizona, he is founder and a senior scientist with SWCA Environmental Consultants, a firm with 14 offices in seven states. Currently, Dr. Carothers advises the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission on biological issues related to management of the Rio Grande and Pecos River. He is also involved with instream flow and native fish concerns in the state of Hawaii.

Dr. Carothers has been an observer, participant, and investigator of Grand Canyon issues over three decades. His research includes one of the earliest systematic fisheries surveys in the Canyon and a study of camping beach impacts that led, in part, to the campsite protocols now in place. Other investigations in Grand Canyon addressed riparian habitat characteristics, feral burro impacts, electrofishing-induced injuries in fish, and peregrine falcon populations. Early in his career and as an NPS employee, Dr. Carothers helped develop the first Grand Canyon Colorado River Management Plan.

As a member of the writing team for the Glen Canyon Dam EIS in the 1990s, he played a key role in developing the EIS alternatives and assessing

dam-related impacts on biological resources. More recently, Dr. Carothers led the development of the research design for the Low Steady Summer Flow experiment, as well as a plan for introducing a second population of hump-back chub in Grand Canyon.

His publications on Grand Canyon include *The Colorado River through Grand Canyon: Natural History and Human Change* (co-author: Dr. Bryan T. Brown) and *Grand Canyon Birds* (co-authors: Dr. Brown and Dr. R. Roy Johnson), both for University of Arizona Press.

✿ Christian E. Downum, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor in Anthropology and Director,
Anthropology Laboratories, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ*

Since 1992 Mr. Downum has been Principal Investigator at NAU of Grand Canyon River Corridor Monitoring Project for cultural resources. This project monitors cultural (human) and non-cultural impacts to cultural resources in the river corridor and takes remedial action to mitigate impacts. He has conducted surveys and ruins preservation projects throughout the Grand Canyon National Park. He also has experience with the VERP process and has developed indicators and standards for cultural resources at Wupatki National Monument.

✿ Pam Foti, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Parks and Recreation Management
College of Ecosystem Science and Management
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ*

Pam Foti is currently an Associate Professor in Parks and Recreation Management at Northern Arizona University (NAU); she has been at NAU for over 15 years. Her teaching areas at NAU include outdoor leadership, outdoor education, interpretation, wilderness management, and the ecology and physical impacts of wildland recreation. Foti's research is focused specifically on physical impact analysis of outdoor recreation use with a focus on human impact inventories and monitoring systems.

Prior to her work at NAU, Foti graduated from The Ohio State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in Park and Recreation Administration. She went on to pursue a Master's degree from the University of Nevada-Reno

in Wildland Recreation Management and graduated in 1977. Foti worked as a Park Ranger for the Nevada Division of State Parks from 1977-1983. In 1983, she returned to the academy where she obtained a Ph.D. in Land Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December, 1987.

Above and beyond work and academics, Pam Foti is a Grand Canyon hiker.

✱ Jim Hammett

Superintendent

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, John Day, OR

Jim Hammett has worked for the National Park Service since 1972 in a diversity of jobs ~ as a trails foreman, wilderness ranger, natural resource specialist, park planner, NEPA coordinator, and park manager. He has been the superintendent of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in central Oregon for the past eight years. In the early 1990's he was one of the planners at the Denver Service Center that developed the VERP process for addressing visitor carrying capacity within the National Park Service. Currently, he is on the training cadre of the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center and teaches Wilderness Planning, including Limits of Acceptable Change and Wilderness Stewardship. Although he has kayaked portions of the Green, Yampa, and Salmon Rivers, he has never experienced the Grand Canyon, and spends far more time on a horse than on a raft. He earned his MS in Vegetation Ecology from the University of Montana.

✱ Denny Huffman

Retired Superintendent

Dinosaur National Monument, National Park Service, Grand Junction, CO

Denny Huffman is a retired National Park Service field manager with 36 years of diverse resource and public use experience. He has managed resource diversity from Yosemite National Park to Virgin Islands National Park and public uses involving a broad range of private, commercial, educational and special populations opportunities. Of his 25 years as a park superintendent, the last 10 were spent at Dinosaur National Monument with direct involvement related to resource management and public use along the Yampa and Green Rivers. He is an avid private boater and has done six trips on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park.

Denny has been a trustee/advisor with the River Management Society since the organization was established and continues to engage in river-related issues since his retirement.

✱ Lilian Jonas, Ph.D.

Proprietor

Jonas Consulting, Flagstaff, AZ

Lilian Jonas has a varied background in terms of education and experience relating to Colorado River management issues. Educated as a recreational sociologist, her dissertation examined the experiences of river recreationists in the western United States. She has also published a number of manuscripts on the subject, focusing mainly on the social-psychological dynamics of river experiences. In addition to recreation, Dr. Jonas has a broad understanding of the complexities of other Colorado River resources, much of which comes from working directly with native and non-native fishes, aquatic food base, Kanab ambersnails, and cultural resources.

✱ Matt Kaplinski

Research Associate

Department of Geology, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Matt Kaplinski received a B.S. degree in Geophysics from Western Michigan University in 1986 and a M.S. degree in Geology from Northern Arizona University in 1990. In 1990 he began investigating the effects of Glen Canyon Dam releases on Colorado River sand bars. Since then, he has spent most of his professional career studying sand bars and sediment transport along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. More recently, he has investigated changes to campsite area along the Colorado River. He is currently employed as a research associate at the Department of Geology, Northern Arizona University. Matt has also been a professional river guide since 1990 and has participated in numerous commercial and private river trips through Grand Canyon. He is a member of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc. and was recently elected to its board of directors. He also serves as Grand Canyon River Guides representative to Technical Work Group of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, where he advocates for the interests of the recreational boating community.

✱ Earl Perry

Former Planner and River Ranger

National Park Service, Lakewood, CO

Earl Perry was a professional boatman in Grand Canyon, and has been a private river runner for 40+ years. He was a planner and river ranger for the National Park Service, and has published stories, articles, and two books on boating.

✱ Catherine A. Roberts, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Mathematics

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Catherine A. Roberts, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. She's an applied mathematician with a research focus in natural resource modeling. She is here representing the computer model project, the Grand Canyon River Trip Simulator.

✱ Bo Shelby, Ph. D.

Professor

Department of Forestry Resources, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Bo Shelby took his first Colorado River/Grand Canyon trip in 1970. He worked on social science studies (capacity, motors, allocation) in the Canyon for the RMP process in the mid-1970s, and has since been involved in several follow-up studies, including the 1998-2000 replication/extension with Troy Hall. He has worked on river management issues in many other locations as a university professor and consultant, and is currently part of the SWCA team working on the RMP/EIS.

✱ Larry Stevens, Ph.D.

Principal

Stevens Ecological Consulting, LLC, Flagstaff, AZ

A native of Ohio, Dr. Larry Stevens received his undergraduate degree from Prescott College and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. He worked from 1987-1994 as an Ecologist for

Grand Canyon National Park, coordinating ecological, sociological and physical studies of the effects of Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River ecosystem. Subsequently he took positions as a consultant to the Bureau of Reclamation's Glen Canyon Environmental Studies Program, where he helped coordinate the scientific design and analysis of the 1996 Experimental Flood. In 1999, after two years as Field Ecologist for the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, he moved into conservation biology, and is presently the President of the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, a non-profit, conservation science and policy organization based in Flagstaff. He is also a consulting ecologist, studying a wide array of river management issues throughout North America. Dr. Stevens has published more than 40 scientific papers on Grand Canyon ecology, river running history and safety, and ecosystem dynamics, including one of the most popular river guides on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. He is an avid natural historian and river runner, and enjoys hiking, playing guitar and spending time with his family in Flagstaff.

✱ William Stewart, Ph. D.

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Department of Leisure Studies, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

Bill Stewart conducts research and teaching related to conservation and park development in the University of Illinois' environmental program. His goals are directed at the development of environmental settings to improve visitor experiences and enhance management effectiveness in user-related policies. Bill has been conducting research on recreationists at Grand Canyon since 1984, including studies related to overnight backcountry users, management of day visitors, and anglers and rafters of the Colorado River. He has recently become involved in research related to community-based ecological restoration initiatives within agricultural and post-industrial landscapes. He has published widely on issues related to park planning, land use management, and natural resource-based tourism.

Bill's expertise with river management issues is connected with his research on anglers and rafters of the Colorado River conducted in the late-1990s, and his research experience related to visitor management policies at Everglades, Big Bend, and several other park areas.

✿ Alan Watson

Research Scientist

*Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Departments
of The Interior & Agriculture, Missoula, MT*

Dr. Watson is the Research Social Scientist for the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, the Executive Editor for Science for the International Journal of Wilderness and the Science Chair for the World Wilderness Congress. Alan's science focus is on wild land and wild river research to support agency management and planning decisions. From the Kobuk River in Alaska's Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve to Juniper Run in the Forest Service's Juniper Prairie Wilderness in Florida, Alan has built science teams to investigate specific issues and interact with planning teams to incorporate this information into management alternatives. Long term involvement in providing science to support planning in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness led to detailed studies of private and commercial floaters, peak flow kayakers on unique tributaries, and the jet boat user population. The Leopold Institute has been involved in social science research issues at the Grand Canyon National Park for many years, from direct involvement in research to review of research proposals and final reports.

✿ Doug Whittaker, Ph.D.

Researcher

Confluence Research and Consulting, Anchorage, AK

Doug Whittaker, Ph.D. has more than 17 years of experience working on natural resource issues as a researcher/consultant or as an outdoor recreation planner with the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. Dr. Whittaker has published widely and presented at numerous symposia, conferences, and short courses across the country on river recreation issues. About half of his work focuses on crowding, conflict, and carrying capacity issues in recreation settings. The remainder of his work focuses on instream flow issues (e.g., water rights, FERC relicensing, or navigability). Dr. Whittaker has a Ph.D. in human dimensions of natural resources from Colorado State University.

He works for Confluence Research and Consulting, which is part of the SWCA team working on the CRMP EIS.

✱ John Yost

President

Earthwise, Vallecito, CA

Mr. Yost has been involved with Grand Canyon rafting issues since 1969, when he first worked on a commercial trip down the Colorado. He has worked as a guide, enjoyed the Canyon as a private boater, purchased, owned and managed a Grand Canyon rafting concession, and (as a consultant) written a proposal for a rafting concession in the Canyon. As President of Sobek Expeditions, an international rafting organization, he has considered issues of carrying capacity in settings around the world, and as a board member of Friends of the River continues to grapple with issues of conservation and commercial and private use of the rivers of California.



